

ST. LOUIS

Conservation Connections

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • September 2015



A Day at the Confluence, Celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day!

Saturday, September 26, 2015

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(All ages)

What is National Hunting and Fishing Day? For a few, it may seem like one of those frivolous ways to promote commercial enterprises. For natural resource conservationists and enthusiasts, it's a time for everyone to have fun and enjoy healthy forests, fish and wildlife.

Our natural resources haven't always been this way. During the late 1800s and early 1900s in Missouri, commercialization of our forests, fish and wildlife was rampant, resulting in severe overharvest. According to James F. Keefe, author of *The First 50 Years*, "All over the state wildlife was exploited by market gunners who sent wagonloads of game to city markets. So politically powerful were these market gunners that they successfully fought off attempts to limit their activities well into this century."

Thankfully, sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts who recognized the need to enforce game limits formed the Conservation Federation of Missouri. Due to members' dedication and hard work, citizens passed Amendment 4 to establish a bi-partisan Conservation Commission which, in 1937, established the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Not only did commercialization take a back seat. Conservation efforts continue to yield strong populations of numerous species such as deer, beaver, and turkey. Just this year, the Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries Biologists have verified, lake sturgeon are once again hatching in our waterways.

The rest is history, and we are living this history now; every time we go fishing, whenever we go birding, or even when the only things we see are tracks.



So join us for A Day at the Confluence, Celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day! No reservations required. For more information visit our website at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/298> or call 314-877-6014.

- Archery and Air Rifle, ages 9 and up
- Peewee Archery, for smaller ones
- Boat Rides, life jackets provided for 50 lbs. and up
- Tree ID Hikes
- Fish ID Maze
- Mammal Skull ID Maze
- Asian Carp Filleting, demo and samples
- Spanish Lake Fire Protection District
- MO Water Patrol...

By COLLEEN SCOTT, interpretive center manager



Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

April 1 – November 30
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

December 1 – March 31
Wednesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

*Conservation pays by
enriching our economy
and quality of life*

Beginning Handgun

Sept 3 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

Looking to start hunting or target shooting with a handgun? This program will include basic handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session then move to a live-fire session on the range. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the live-fire session. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Registration begins Aug 3.)

Basic Handgun Care, Cleaning, and Storage

Sept 8 • Tuesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Even new firearms from the store must be cleaned and properly lubricated before being shot or going hunting. Whether a family heirloom, expensive sporting or competition gun, or a hard-working basic shooter, it requires proper care and attention to keep it working and prevent wear or damaged parts. Come let us teach you the proper techniques and overview some of the multitude of products and claims out there to maintain firearms. Firearms and equipment will be provided. (Registration begins Aug 8.)

Beginning Shotgun Shell Reloading

Sept 10 • Thursday • 1 – 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Reloading is a hobby that can bring lots of personal and family satisfaction and enjoyment – It may also save you money on hunting and target ammunition! Each student is taught reloading safety,

shotgun shell components, using the reloading manual and reloading data, equipment, and the shotgun shell reloading process. This beginning class is hands-on and you will actually load high quality shells. Equipment, components, tools, etc. are provided. (Reservations begin Aug 10.)

Effective Wingshooting for the Hunter

Sept 19 • Saturday • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

(Experienced shotgun hunters, ages 14 and up)

The wingshooting seasons are upon us. Are you ready? This intermediate program is designed to teach hunters to be more proficient for birds like dove, quail, pheasants, migratory birds, waterfowl, and even turkeys. Participants will learn about wounding rates in waterfowl, performance differences of steel and lead shot shells, how to improve your wingshooting (put more birds in the bag), and distance estimation skills. 12 and 20 gauge non-toxic/steel ammunition is provided free of charge. Participants must bring their own shotgun, choke tubes, and some of your normal non-toxic hunting ammo for patterning. (Reservations begin Aug 19.)

Beginning Youth, .22 Caliber Rimfire Target Rifle

Sept 26 • Saturday • 8 – 9:30 a.m.

(First time shooters, ages 9 – 15)

Interested young people who have no experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in this session on learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin Aug 26.)

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

REMINDER: The August A. Busch Shooting Range is closed for a total renovation. For more information see our website <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/august-busch-shooting-range> and visit our blog <http://mdc.mo.gov/blogs/busch-range-renovations>

Introduction to Deer Calling

Sept 9 • Wednesday • 6 - 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

This is the time of year to start brushing-up on your deer calling skills. Take the opportunity to understand how deer communicate. Learn how to make the calls that will attract deer closer to your stand, blind, or viewing platform. We will discuss the four basic deer calls that can be used during the time of the rut. Bring a notebook, a pen, and any calls you may have. This class will be held in the classrooms at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office. (Reservations begin Aug 10).

Basic Archery

Sept 12 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – noon

(Ages 9 and up)

This program provides students with an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. All equipment and materials will be provided. This course will start in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom. Our instructors will help all participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. (Reservations begin Aug 10).

Missouri Deer Rifle Selection

Sept 16 • Wednesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Whether you are a first time deer hunter or a seasoned veteran, this is one class you won't want to miss.

If you choose to hunt deer with a high-powered rifle in Missouri, the selection of the right firearm is important to be successful in your hunt. In this class we will discuss significant aspects of the hunt such as terrain, method(s) of hunting, physical limitations, experience level, and how these factors help determine which rifle and caliber is best for you. We will present the pros and cons of the various action types and calibers, and discuss the characteristics and ballistics of each. (Reservations begin Aug 17).

Basic Shotgun

Sept 19 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – noon

(Ages 12 and up)

This is an introduction course to shotguns. Class will start in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom where you will learn safety, actions, chokes, stance, and how to choose and shoot shotguns. Then you will go to the range for live fire, including some clay target shooting. Not recommended for students under 90 lbs. (Reservations begin Aug 20.)



Due to the range closure, all Busch Range programs will be held at the Busch Conservation Area classrooms in the St. Louis Regional Office unless otherwise noted.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Firearm Care and Cleaning

Sept 23 • Wednesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

After the hunt, or shooting, do you know how to properly clean and maintain your firearm? Maintaining your firearm is critical to keep it safe and in good shooting condition. Join our experts as they go over cleaning the different firearm actions, equipment needed, materials, and techniques to keep your firearm in top condition. This program will take place in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom. (Reservations begin Aug 24.)

Metallic Reloading

Sept 24 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

This class will introduce you to the equipment, materials, and techniques for reloading metallic cartridges, and give you hands-on experience re-loading rifle and/or handgun ammunition. Class will be held in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin Aug 24.)

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. DST
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

You and Me under the Canopy

Sept 9 • Wednesday • 10 – 11 a.m.
(Ages 2 – 6)

Come see the topic we are exploring this month. Families, meet in the nature center lobby for a “nature” adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won’t be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the tree canopy. Siblings are welcome. In case of inclement weather the program will be indoors and may be shortened. (Reservations begin Aug 26.)

Scout Discovery Table: Insects, Bugs, and Spiders

Sept 12 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(All ages)

Our Scout Discovery Tables help Boy Scouts earn portions of their badges relating to nature or wildlife. September’s program offers insect and spider specimens, cocoon specimens, an insect hunt, and insect-related displays. Discovery Tables are open to Boy Scout groups and the general public. No reservations necessary.

Scampering Squirrels

Sept 15 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Ages 4 and up)

If you walk near woods or trees, the mammals you are most likely to see are squirrels. They are fun to watch as they run and jump and play, flick their bushy tails, chase each other up trees, bury acorns in the fall and dig them up again to eat in winter. But in spite of the playfulness that makes squirrels fun to watch, they face the same challenges in their lives as any other kind of wildlife. Learn more about these lively little mammals as we celebrate their lives with activities and crafts. Please dress for the weather because if possible we will go outside to look for squirrels. (Reservations begin Sept 8.)

Volunteer Milestones

Bill Busby	1000 hours
Judy Currie	1250 hours
Betsy Frick	200 hours
Gus Ottinger	200 hours
Pat Siewing	400 hours
Wayne Schiiefelbein	400 hours

Beautiful Butterflies

Sept 22 • Tuesday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 10 and up)

Is that a monarch or a viceroy? Butterflies bring an array of bright colors that flutter amidst our summer skies. Learn the life history and identification techniques for common species found throughout Missouri. Gain great tips on how to attract these pollinators to your backyard. Practice your skills while exploring Powder Valley. (Reservations begin Sept 8.)

Gardening for Monarchs

Sept 29 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Adults)

Whether expert or beginner, join us as we discuss gardening for monarch butterflies, what puddling is, how to make butterfly pudding, and what belongs in a butterfly buffet. Take home craft included. (Reservations begin Sept 15.)



Wooly Worm Festival

Sept 29 • Tuesday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3 – 6)

Have you ever been to the Wooly Worm Festival? Well, now you can at Powder Valley. Learn all about these beloved creatures through stories, a craft, and other activities. We will also take a short hike to look for wooly worms and other wildlife. (Reservations begin Sept 15.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Voices of Missouri's Rivers

Sept 11 • Friday • 7 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Learn about the interweaving of science and history and the impact of rivers on our state from the person who speaks for the rivers—Bill Turner, author of the Conservation Department's latest publication, *Voices of Missouri's Rivers*. Turner will share his thoughts and research on our rivers and the reason he felt compelled to write this book. A book signing will follow the presentation. Ages 12-adult. Registration required.

"Clean flowing water in our rivers is vital to sustaining the lives of all Missourians. Occasionally in Missouri, but more often in our neighboring states, across our nation, and around the world, shortages of clean river water are becoming commonplace and reaching critical levels. How we protect and manage our water, through effective river conservation, will dictate how we are remembered by our grandchildren and future generations." ~William Turner



Hallway Exhibit *Society of Independent Artists*

For the past 75 years the Society of Independent Artists has provided an avenue for the promotion of fellowship through monthly meetings and congenial competition among its artists. Several times a year members exhibit watercolor, acrylic, and oil paintings at locations around the St. Louis area.

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Fall Fishing in the Park

Sept 23 • Wednesday • 1 – 3 p.m.

(Ages 10 – 16)

Discover nature while patiently awaiting the big bite. It's the first day of fall and a great day for fishing. Join in the fun learning how to bait, cast and clean a line. All materials and fishing supplies will be included for the program. Meet at the Forest Park Aquatic Education Lakes. Participants should bring a water bottle and dress to be outdoors. (Reservations begin Sept 1.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Senior Picnic at the Confluence

Sept 15 • Tuesday • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Senior Adults)

Remember the first time you saw the Confluence of the Mighty Mississippi and the “Big Muddy”? Visit the rivers once again. Explore other sights and sounds at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area as well. View the prairie bursting with purple and gold wildflowers and flitting butterflies while you eat your lunch in a covered picnic pavilion. Meet at the Visitor Center and bring a sack lunch. Water, coffee, and dessert will be provided. There is easy access to all areas we visit. (Reservations run Aug 26 thru Sept 11.)

Special Event!

*A Day at the Confluence,
Celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day!*
Saturday, September 26, 2015

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(All ages)

Join us for A Day at the Confluence, Celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day! For more information visit our website at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/298> or call 314-877-6014. No reservations required.

Some of the fun activities will include:

Archery and air rifle - ages 9 and up
Peewee archery, - for smaller ones
Boat rides - life jackets provided for 50 lbs. and up
Tree identification hikes
Fish identification maze
Mammal skull identification maze
Asian carp filleting demonstrations and samples
Spanish Lake Fire Protection District
Missouri Water Patrol...

Bug Town

Sept 4 • Friday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7 – 10)

Come on along with us to Bug Town, a small city with big attractions! You'll meet some very interesting locals such as the Architect, Chef, and the Groundskeeper to name a few. Then, for a grand finale to the tour, you're part of a one-of-a-kind rock band and spectacular light show! (Reservations begin Sept 11.)

Fall is Here!

Sept 23 • Wednesday • 10 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 6)

How can we tell fall has come? Explore the season through song, story, and art. After our indoor exploration, we'll venture out on the Confluence Trail for a short hike to discover the signs of fall. Wonderful, colorful fall is here! (Reservations begin Sept 9.)

Supermoon Eclipse at the Confluence!

Sept 27 • Sunday • 6:30 – 10 p.m.

(Ages 7 and up)

This evening's attractions are marvelous! You'll view a vibrant and colorful sunset. Take a brisk walk on our wooded trail. And, for the grand finale, witness the “Supermoon” as it magically transforms before your eyes! All this takes place in our wonderful wildlife setting at the Confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers where you discover the many aspects of nature. Total eclipse, 9:11 p.m. Bring your camera, water, and a snack. Total walking distance is just over a mile. Meet at Lot “M” about 4 miles from the front entrance. (Reservations run Sept 10 thru 24.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300



Introduction to Bowfishing

Sept 4 • Friday • 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Sept 5 • Saturday • 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

This introductory two-day program is for beginners who want to learn how to get started in this exciting sport. We will go over the safety aspects, proper gear, fish ID, regulations, and ethics while in the classroom. The classroom portion will be held at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office. All participants who attend the first day will have the opportunity to use department provided gear in the field with guidance from staff on the second day. You must attend day one in order to participate on day two. A valid fishing or hunting permit is required in order to attend this program (15 years of age or younger/65 years of age or older are exempt). (Reservations begin Aug 21.)



Monarch Tagging

Sept 8 • Tuesday • 9 a.m. – noon

Sept 12 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sept 15 • Tuesday • 9 a.m. – noon

Sept 17 • Thursday • 9 a.m. – noon

(Ages 8 and Up)

Monarchs are migrating through our area! Drop in any time during the program session and become a citizen scientist! Learn about flight patterns,

monarch behavior, proper netting techniques, and hopefully tag a few butterflies in an effort to track their migration. We will meet on the side of the Weldon Springs Interpretive Center building at 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304. (Reservations are not required, but we encourage you to call in case of cancellation for severely inclement weather.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Wild Child

Sept 30 • Wednesday • 1:30 – 3 p.m.

(Ages 6 – 12)

This is a botanical immersion experience for children interested in wild crafting and herbalism. We will spend time outside connecting with nature and meeting new plant friends. Our learning will be reinforced through fun stories, games, and songs about these plants and their historical significance. We will start our own nature journal and discover how to tap into our inner wild child. This is a wonderful opportunity to ignite a passion for the most vital part of our food webs: the producers! (Reservations begin Sept 16.)

Volunteer Milestones

Jennifer Perkins	1,000 hours
Marilynn Motchan	1,250 hours
Aaron Jungbluth	2,000 hours
Ed Leutwiler	7,000 hours

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

LaBarque Creek Hike

Sept 12 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Adults)

Discover one of our newest conservation areas and Missouri Natural Areas. Hike along LaBarque Creek, one of the most pristine waterways in our state, explore small sandstone glades, and view beautiful sandstone outcrops exposed by the power of water. Effort = Strenuous, for 3 mile hike on natural surface with large elevation change. (Reservations begin Aug 28.)



Discovery Table: Poisonous and Venomous Things

Sept 19 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

Learn about the poisonous and venomous plants and animals found in Missouri. Explore snakes, spiders, bees, wasps, hornets, scorpions, mushrooms, and poison ivy. There will even be live venomous snakes on display! Stop by anytime during the four hour period. (No reservations necessary.)

Fall Hiking Club

Sept 12 – Nov 15 • Saturdays and Sundays • 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Join the Fall Hiking Club and explore up to seven conservation areas with a Naturalist guide. Hikes range from 1.5 to 5 miles in length and encompass varied terrain such as glades, old growth forest, and rocky outcrops. We'll take a leisurely pace as we observe the unique features of each area, so bring your camera and guidebooks. We'll begin with an informational pre-hike meeting and wrap up with a photo-sharing social. Reservations will be taken for each hike, and participants may attend any number of hikes. Programs start at trail heads; directions will be provided to all participating hikers. Dates for all Fall Hiking Club activities are listed below. Effort = Moderate - Strenuous for hiking up to 5 miles over uneven terrain. (Reservations for hikes through Oct 18 begin Aug 28. Reservations for hikes on and after Oct 31 begin Oct 16.)

Sept 12 – 11 a.m.: Pre-Hike Meeting, Rockwoods Reservation Visitor Center

Sept 13 – 1 p.m.: Valley View Glades NA, 2.5 miles

Sept 26 – 11 a.m.: LaBarque Creek CA, LaBarque Creek Trail, 3 miles

Oct 10 – 11 a.m.: Little Indian Creek CA, East Loop, 5 miles

Oct 18 – 1 p.m.: Forest 44 CA, Yellow Trail, 3.5 miles

Oct 31 – 11 a.m.: Engelmann Woods CA, 1.5 miles

Nov 8 – 1 p.m.: Weldon Spring CA, Clark Trail, 5 miles

Nov 14 – 11 a.m.: Rockwoods Reservation, Trail Among the Trees, 1.5 miles

Nov 15 – 1 p.m.: Photo-sharing Social, Rockwoods Reservation

Volunteer Milestones

Scott Thompson

200 hours